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NPIC/R-167/63  
July 1963

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION BRIEF

GROZNY MRBM LAUNCH COMPLEX,  
USSR

5-8815



CIA



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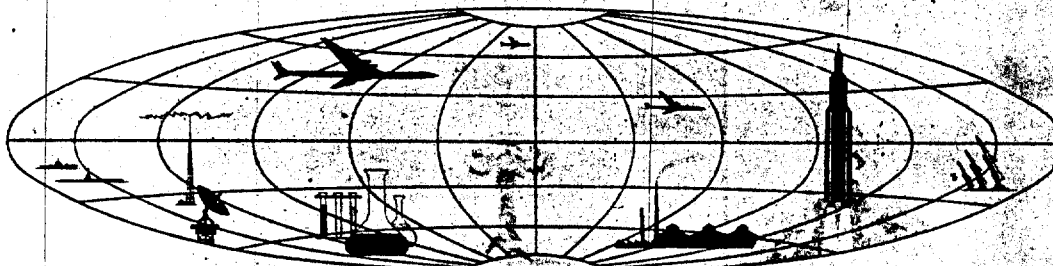
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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER		PHOTO INTERPRETATION BRIEF	
Title: Groznyy MRBM Launch Complex, USSR	Geo Coords: None	COMOR No: NA	Publication No: NPIC/R-167/63
	NPIC Target No: 21-M; 21-N; 21-L	BE No: None	Date: July 1963

Photo Data: [REDACTED]

References: USATC 200, Sheet 325-7A, 1st ed, Feb 58, & Sheet 325-2A, 1st ed, May 58(S);  
AMS Series N501, Sheet NK38-2 (U) NPIC Project J-120/63 (partial answer)

A newly identified MRBM launch complex is located in the Caucasus Mountains near the town of Ordzhonikidze and approximately 32 nm WSW of Groznyy. It is composed of two soft MRBM launch areas (Type I) and a hardened MRBM/IRBM launch area (Type IV). The

completed launch complex was partially visible, although not identifiable, on KEYHOLE Missions [REDACTED] and was observed on fair-quality photography on KEYHOLE [REDACTED]

The two soft MRBM launch areas are connected directly by good road to the rail-served town of Nazran; the hardened launch area is connected to the rail-served city of Ordzhonikidzevskaya.

#### MRBM LAUNCH AREA 1 (SUNZHENSKOYE)

The southern launch area (Figure 1) is located at 43-08-00N 44-55-15E, 6 nm NE of Sunzhenskoye. The launch area consists of an irregularly configured Type I launch site and an administration and housing section con-

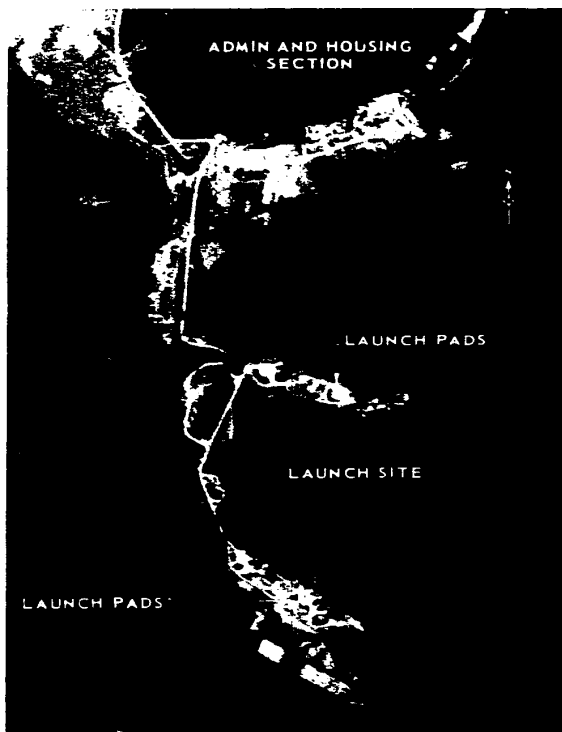


FIGURE 1. MRBM LAUNCH AREA 1 (SUNZHENSKOYE)



FIGURE 2. MRBM LAUNCH AREA 2 (NESTEROVSKAYA)

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taining six barracks-type buildings and several smaller buildings. Within the launch site are four circular pads arranged in widely separated pairs with a distance of 750 feet between the pads of each pair. Although there are several candidates for ready buildings at the launch site, none can be positively identified.

Located along the access road to the launch site are several large buildings of undetermined size and function.

#### MRBM LAUNCH AREA 2 (NESTEROVSKAYA)

The second soft MRBM launch area (Figure 2) is located at 43-12-00N 44-57-45E, 4.5 nm SW of Nesterovskaya and 4.3 nm NNE of Launch Area 1. It contains a Type I launch site, a technical section located adjacent to the launch site, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and an administration and housing section containing at least four buildings. The launch pads are circular and arranged in a nearly rectangular pattern but are connected by an irregular road network. There is a 420-foot separation between the launch pads of each pair. On current KEYHOLE coverage there is only one ready building discernible within the launch site.

#### MRBM/IRBM LAUNCH AREA 3 (ACHKHoy-MARTAN)

The hardened MRBM/IRBM launch area (Figure 3) is located at 43-10-00N 45-11-00E, 4.5 nm west of Achkhoy-Martán, 9.7 nm ESE

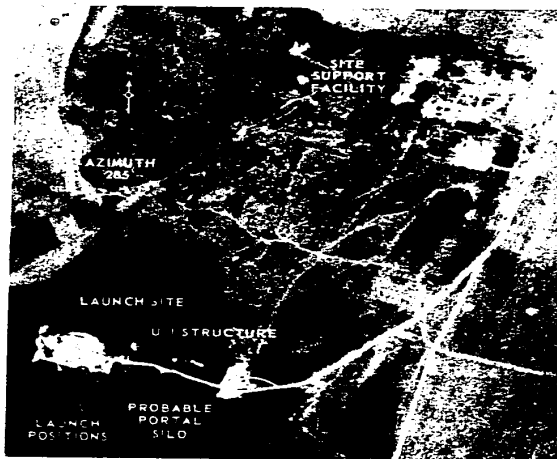


FIGURE 3. MRBM/IRBM LAUNCH AREA 3 (ACHKHoy-MARTAN)

of Launch Area 2 and 11.5 nm ENE of Launch Area 1. It consists of a Type IV launch site and a site support facility situated approximately 5,000 feet to the NE. Haze precludes an accurate count and mensuration of buildings within the site support facility; however, portions of at least ten buildings are discernible.

The launch site contains a mounded control bunker circumvented by a loop road that serves two launch positions 225 feet apart, a probable portal silo, and an unidentified structure located in the NE quarter of the launch site. The access road enters the launch site on a 285-degree azimuth. No security fence is discernible about the launch site.

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